

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9275

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, LE, XF

SUBJECT: VATICAN APPEALS FOR PEACE IN LEBANON

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

AT ITS DISCRETION, DEPT MAY WISH SEND TO ADDITIONAL ADDRESSEES

1. SEVERAL VATICAN INDICATIONS SURFACED IN RECENT DAYS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VATICAN IS EXERTING PRESSURE ON CHRISTIANS FOR AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON. AMONG THESE INDICATORS ARE CONVERSATIONS HELD LAST WEEK AT VATICAN WITH PERE KASSIS, RADIO VATICAN COMPREHENSIVE APPEAL FOR PEACE IN LEBANON JULY 27, AND DIRECT APPEAL FOR CEASEFIRE BY POPE PAUL AUGUST 1.

2. FOLLOWING VATICAN CONVERSATIONS WITH PERE KASSIS LAST WEEK, RADIO VATICAN ON JULY 27 BROADCAST COMPREHENSIVE EDITORIAL ENTITLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"PEACE FOR LEBANON" IN WHICH THERE WAS AN APPEAL FOR "AN URGENT

CESSATION OF FIGHTING" IN LEBANON. IT ALSO POINTED TO THE PRESENCE OF 400,000 PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE CONFLICT AND URGED A RETURN TO THE 1970 CAIRO AND 1973 MERKAT-BEIRUT UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON AS A MEANS OF LONG-LASTING PEACE.

3. POPE PAUL ON AUGUST 1, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING TELL ZAATAR, ISSUED APPEAL TO "COMMON SENSE OF HUMAN COMPASSION" SO THAT "NEUTRAL INITIATIVES" BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM HUMANITARIAN DEEDS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO "GROUPS BESIEGED IN CAMPS," AND SPECIFICALLY EXHORTED "CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS" TO COLLABORATE IN THIS ACTION.

4. BOTH RADIO VATICAN AND POPE PAUL'S APPEALS ALLUDE TO THE SUFFERING OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND INDICATE HOLY SEE SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN ASPIRATION TO HAVE OWN "FATHERLAND". VOLPE

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